

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for visualizing data, comprising:
2 receiving code representing content to be presented
3 to the user, the content comprising a plurality of
4 hyperlinks to other content and at least one attribute
5 associated with each of the hyperlinks;
6 receiving a set of at least one user preference for
7 displaying the hyperlinks responsive to the at least one
8 attribute associated therewith; and
9 displaying the content while hiding at least one of
10 the hyperlinks responsive to the at least one user
11 preference and to the at least one attribute associated
12 with the at least one of the hyperlinks.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least
2 one attribute comprises a verbosity characteristic, and
3 wherein the at least one user preference specifies a
4 desired level of verbosity, and wherein displaying the
5 content comprises selecting the at least one of the
6 hyperlinks to hide responsive to a comparison of the
7 verbosity characteristic thereof and the verbosity level.
- 1 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the
2 verbosity level comprises a verbosity threshold, and
3 wherein selecting the at least one of the hyperlinks
4 comprises hiding those hyperlinks whose verbosity
5 characteristic is above the threshold.
- 1 4. A method according to claim 2, wherein receiving
2 the set of at least one user preference comprises
3 servicing an interaction by the user with an on-screen
4 control for setting the verbosity level.

1 5. A method according to claim 2, wherein the at least
2 one attribute comprises a classification of the hyperlink
3 into one of a plurality of predefined categories, and
4 wherein receiving the set of at least one user preference
5 comprises receiving the desired level of the verbosity by
6 category.

1 6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least
2 one attribute comprises a classification of the hyperlink
3 into one of a plurality of predefined categories, and
4 wherein receiving the set of at least one user preference
5 comprises receiving the user preference with regard to
6 displaying each of the categories.

1 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the
2 hyperlinks comprises two or more hyperlinks in different
3 ones of the categories associated with a single item in
4 the content, and wherein displaying the content comprises
5 determining which of the two or more hyperlinks to
6 display responsive to the user preference.

1 8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the content
2 comprises markup language code.

1 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the at least
2 one attribute is determined by a style sheet associated
3 with the content, and wherein displaying the content
4 comprises formatting the content for display responsive
5 to the style sheet.

1 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein receiving
2 the set of at least one user preference comprises
3 receiving an input of the preference while the content is
4 being displayed, and wherein displaying the content

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5 comprises altering the content displayed based on the
6 input of the preference.

1 11. A method according to claim 1, wherein displaying
2 the content comprises using a Web browser program to
3 generate the display, and wherein setting the at least
4 one user preference comprises positioning a cursor on a
5 screen and moving the cursor so as to interact with a
6 user interface displayed by the browser program.

1 12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the user
2 interface comprises slider controls.

1 13. Apparatus for visualizing data, comprising:

2 a computer which is arranged to receive code
3 representing content for display on a monitor screen, the
4 content comprising a plurality of hyperlinks to other
5 content and at least one attribute associated with each
6 of the hyperlinks, the computer being further arranged to
7 receive a set of at least one user preference for
8 displaying the hyperlinks responsive to the at least one
9 attribute associated therewith; and

10 a display, coupled to be driven by the computer to
11 display the content while at least one of the hyperlinks
12 is hidden responsive to the at least one user preference
13 and the at least one attribute associated with the at
14 least one of the hyperlinks.

1 14. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the at
2 least one attribute comprises a verbosity characteristic,
3 and wherein the at least one user preference specifies a
4 desired level of verbosity, and wherein the computer is
5 arranged to select the at least one of the hyperlinks to

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6 hide responsive to a comparison of the verbosity
7 characteristic of the hyperlink and the verbosity level.

1 15. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the
2 verbosity level comprises a verbosity threshold, and
3 wherein the computer is arranged to hide those hyperlinks
4 whose verbosity characteristic is above the threshold.

1 16. Apparatus according to claim 14, and comprising a
2 user input device, which is coupled to the computer so as
3 to enable the user to set the verbosity level by
4 interacting with controls shown on the display.

1 17. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the at
2 least one attribute comprises a classification of the
3 hyperlink into one of a plurality of predefined
4 categories, and wherein the at least one user preference
5 comprises a specification of the desired level of
6 verbosity by category.

1 18. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the at
2 least one attribute comprises a classification of the
3 hyperlink into one of a plurality of predefined
4 categories, and wherein the at least one user preference
5 comprises a respective preference with regard to each of
6 the categories.

1 19. Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the
2 hyperlinks comprise two or more hyperlinks in different
3 ones of the categories associated with a single item in
4 the content, and wherein the computer is arranged to
5 determine which of the two or more hyperlinks to display
6 responsive to the user preference.

1 20. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the
2 content comprises markup language code.

21. Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the at least one attribute is determined by a style sheet associated with the content, and wherein the computer is arranged to format the content for display responsive to the style sheet.

22. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the computer is arranged to receive an input of the at least one user preference while the content is being displayed, and to alter the content displayed based on the input of the preference.

23. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the computer is arranged to use a Web browser program to generate the display, and comprising a user input device operable by the user to position a cursor on the screen so as to interact with a user interface displayed within the browser software in order to set the at least one user preference.

24. Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the user interface comprises slider controls.

25. A computer software product for visualizing data, comprising a computer-readable medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to receive code representing content to be presented to the user, the content comprising a plurality of hyperlinks to other content and at least one attribute associated with each of the hyperlinks, and

which instructions further cause the computer to receive a set of at least one user preference for

11 displaying the hyperlinks responsive to the at least one
 12 attribute associated therewith, and
 13 which instructions further cause the computer to
 14 display the content while hiding at least one of the
 15 hyperlinks responsive to the at least one user preference
 16 and to the at least one attribute associated with the at
 17 least one of the hyperlinks.

1 26. A product according to claim 25, wherein the at
 2 least one attribute comprises a verbosity characteristic,
 3 and wherein the at least one user preference specifies a
 4 desired level of verbosity, and wherein the instructions
 5 cause the computer to select the at least one of the
 6 hyperlinks to hide responsive to a comparison of the
 7 verbosity characteristic thereof and the verbosity level.

1 27. A product according to claim 26, wherein the
 2 verbosity level comprises a verbosity threshold, and
 3 wherein the instructions cause the computer to hide those
 4 hyperlinks whose verbosity characteristic is above the
 5 threshold.

1 28. A product according to claim 26, wherein receiving
 2 the set of at least one user preference comprises
 3 instructions causing the computer to interact with the
 4 user via an on-screen control for setting the verbosity
 5 level.

1 29. A product according to claim 26, wherein the at
 2 least one attribute comprises a classification of the
 3 hyperlink into one of a plurality of predefined
 4 categories, and wherein receiving the set of at least one
 5 user preference comprises receiving the desired level of
 6 the verbosity by category.

1 30. A product according to claim 25, wherein the at
2 least one attribute comprises a classification of the
3 hyperlinks into one of a plurality of predefined
4 categories, and wherein the at least one user preference
5 comprises a respective preference with regard to each of
6 the categories.

1 31. A product according to claim 30, wherein the
2 hyperlinks comprise two or more hyperlinks in different
3 ones of the categories associated with a single item in
4 the content, and wherein the instructions cause the
5 computer to determine which of the two or more hyperlinks
6 to display responsive to the user preference.

1 32. A product according to claim 25, wherein the
2 content comprises markup language code.

1 33. A product according to claim 32, wherein the at
2 least one attribute is determined by a style sheet
3 associated with the content, and wherein the instructions
4 cause the computer to format the content for display
5 responsive to the style sheet.

1 34. A product according to claim 25, wherein the
2 instructions cause the computer to receive an input of
3 the preference while content is being displayed, and to
4 alter the content displayed based on the input of the
5 preference.

1 35. A product according to claim 25, wherein the
2 product comprises a Web browser program, which causes the
3 computer to generate the display, and wherein the
4 instructions cause the computer to position a cursor on a
5 screen and to move the cursor so as to interact with a
6 user interface displayed by the browser program.

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- 1 36. A product according to claim 35, wherein the user
- 2 interface comprises slider controls.